GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3415
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007
ADULTERATION IN PETROL AND DIESEL
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that consumers are suffering losses and not getting proper quantity of petrol and diesel due to adulteration;

(b) if so, whether the Oil Marketing Companies have fixed any responsibilities to its officers for not performing their duties properly to check and control the menace of adulteration in petrol and diesel;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon during each of the last three years, company-wise; and

(d) the measures taken by the OMCs to strengthen their machinery to check the adulteration in petrol and diesel?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) : The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

(b): The Oil Companies consider it as their duty and responsibility to ensure dispensation of correct quality and quantity of petroleum products sold through their retail outlet network. Officials of the Oil Companies found erring in their duties are liable for appropriate disciplinary action as per conduct rules.

(c) During the last three years, there has been no case where the Oil Companies had to take action against any of its officers for not performing their duties in checking/controlling the menace of adulteration.

(d) Action is taken by OMCs against guilty petrol pump dealers based on the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Dealership Agreement. The action taken includes termination of dealerships, imposition of fines, suspension of supplies, warning, etc.

To check adulteration in auto fuels and diversion of PDS Kerosene, Government has asked Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps to contain the menace of adulteration:-

(i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have requested the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to take steps to control adulteration.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iii) Government has taken the initiatives to expedite the installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) to monitor the movement of tank trucks.

(iv) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en-route adulteration by transporters.

(v) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(vi) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

In order to check adulteration the Government has recently taken a number of new initiatives which are annexed.